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## Press Release

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## European garrisons participating in Memorial Day ceremonies

**HEIDELBERG, Germany** – U.S. Army garrisons throughout Europe will be participating in Memorial Day programs being held at American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries this weekend, along with other planned events.

During ceremonies at ABMC locations, each cemetery gravesite is decorated with a U.S. flag and that of the host country. According to the ABMC, these programs include participation by U.S. embassies, a reading of the President's Memorial Day Proclamation, speakers, presentation of the colors, wreath-laying ceremonies, and performances by military bands and units.

Ceremonies scheduled are:

Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, France; 9:45 a.m. Sunday  
Ardennes American Cemetery, Belgium; 10 a.m. Saturday  
Brittany American Cemetery, France; 4 p.m. Sunday  
Brookwood American Cemetery, England; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Cambridge American Cemetery, England; 11 a.m. Monday  
Epinal American Cemetery, France; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Flanders Field American Cemetery, Belgium; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Florence American Cemetery, Italy; 11 a.m. Monday  
Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium; 4 p.m. Saturday  
Lorraine American Cemetery, France; 11 a.m. Sunday  
Luxembourg American Cemetery, Luxembourg; 2 p.m. Saturday  
Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, France; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Netherlands American Cemetery, the Netherlands; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Normandy American Cemetery, France; 10:30 a.m. Sunday  
Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, France; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Rhone American Cemetery, France; 10 a.m. Sunday

Saint Mihiel American Cemetery, France; 4 p.m. Sunday  
Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Italy; 11 a.m. Monday  
Somme American Cemetery, France; 3 p.m. Sunday  
Suresnes American Cemetery, France; 2:30 p.m. Sunday

USAG Benelux, Belgium, will be participating in six of these events being held in three countries.

USAG Schinnen, the Netherlands, will be participating in the Netherlands American Cemetery ceremony and a special event scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday. After a life-long search, Estill Taylor will place a bronze star on the cemetery's Wall of the Missing to formerly recognize that her father, 1st Lt. Shannon E. Estill, is no longer listed as missing.

Shot down over Elsnig, Germany, April 13, 1945, just weeks before the end of World War II, the lieutenant was the last man killed from the 428th Fighter Squadron, 474th Fighter Group, 9th Air Force. His daughter's devotion to her father's memory led to his formal burial in Arlington Cemetery on Oct. 6, 2006 – more than 61 years after his death.

Additionally, garrisons throughout Germany will be sponsoring community events. For example, USAG Hohenfels is holding a wreath-laying ceremony Thursday in front of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center headquarters. USAG Stuttgart, along with American Legion Post 6, will be hosting a ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday on Washington Square near the Patch Barracks Chapel. USAG Mannheim is planning a ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday at Veterans Park across from the post commissary. It also will hold a 10-year-anniversary ceremony for its Friendship Circle at 9 a.m. Monday.

And in Friedberg, the recently inactivated 1st Brigade of the 1st Armored Division will hold a memorial service Thursday for all of its fallen Soldiers from an Iraqi deployment that ended in February – the last chance to do officially as many troops are leaving within days.

## **CUTLINES:**

### **Normandy**

U.S. Army garrisons will be participating in Memorial Day programs being held this weekend throughout Europe, such as in Normandy. (Photo by Arthur McQueen).

### **Mannheim**

18th Military Police Brigade soldiers unveil a monument during a 2006 Memorial Day ceremony in Mannheim, Germany. Similar ceremonies will be held again this year throughout Europe. (Photo by Christine Gebhard)